



Embassy of the United States of America
Office of Public Affairs
Baku, Azerbaijan

83, Azadlıq Prospekti
AZ1007 Bakı, Azərbaycan
Email: AbdusalimovV@state.gov

Phone: +(99412) 498 03 35
Fax: +(99412) 498 93 12
URL: <http://baku.usembassy.gov/>

PRESS RELEASE

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We are deeply disappointed by the decision not to renew the broadcast license of ANS Television and Radio.

Democracy depends on a vibrant public discourse based on freedom of expression and a diversity of views.

The closure of Azerbaijan's leading independent news broadcaster represents a severe blow to media freedom. This decision calls into question the Azerbaijani government's commitment to democratic development and freedom of speech.

We strongly urge that this decision be reconsidered in a manner that supports media freedom.